

MINUTES OF THE MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

March 31, 2004

PRESENT:	Cynthia A. Herman, Chairman	Katherine E.L. Chambers, Town Administrator
	Gary L. Daniels, Vice-Chairman	Fred Douglas, Police Chief
	Noreen A. O'Connell, Member	Eric Schelberg, Ambulance Director
	Leonard D. Mannino, Member	Rich Pauley, Fire Chief
	Lawrence D. Pickett, Member	Alan Locicero, Fire Captain
		Nelson Taylor, MACC Base Director

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Herman called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.

Discussion of Milford Area Communications Center and Milford Emergency Communications – Chairman Herman noted that the discussion at the meeting last night with the Selectmen of Wilton, Mont Vernon and Lyndeborough ended with agreement and interest amongst all the parties that an extension of the current March 31st withdrawal notice date would better serve all those involved. Vice-Chairman Daniels stated that he is impressed that all four towns last night showed an interest in staying with MACC Base. He can understand how Lyndeborough had to protect itself by giving notice prior to the March 31 deadline. Selectman O'Connell noted how impressed she was with the other towns last night. She feels the issues are not insurmountable. She is not sure whether they can be addressed within the present framework. She feels they must be resolved in the next three months and the anger upstairs needs to be mitigated.

Selectman Mannino expressed his concern that Milford is looking at a \$70,000 or more increase. He shares the department heads' concerns that we should focus on Milford's needs. The battle we've been up against all along is that every town has to protect its own interest, which causes constant strife. Selectman Pickett questioned what is to be gained by leaving MACC. He feels the MACC Board of Governors has not had a chance to address the issues. He heard the other towns say last night they would stay if they saw changes happening. Chairman Herman concurred that keeping the heat on is imperative. The spotlight has added to the spirit of cooperation and has taken away the complacency of the Board of Governors. The spirit last night was phenomenal, but shifts when people get to the Board of Governor's room. \$70,000 is a lot of money and having another Milford department is not optimal.

Selectman Pickett stated it was his feeling Milford should stay with MACC until a withdrawal date extended to August and re-evaluate the situation then. He feels efforts should be channeled toward fixing the MACC problems. Selectman Mannino stated he wants to be certain we are providing the best emergency services we can. Looking ahead to an increasing population and increasing demands for service, he is not sure a multi-agency service is best. Vice-Chairman Daniels supported the idea that extending the withdrawal deadline gives everyone a chance to address the issues. Selectman O'Connell warned that extending the deadline also gives the opportunity to backpedal; vigilance will be required.

After further discussion, Vice-Chairman Daniels motioned that the Board support an extension of the March 31, 2004, withdrawal date. Selectman O'Connell seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Vice-Chairman Daniels moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 a.m. Selectman Mannino seconded and all voted in favor.

-Next BOS Meeting. The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be April 12, 2004.

Chairman

Vice-Chairman